THE SHAKERITE

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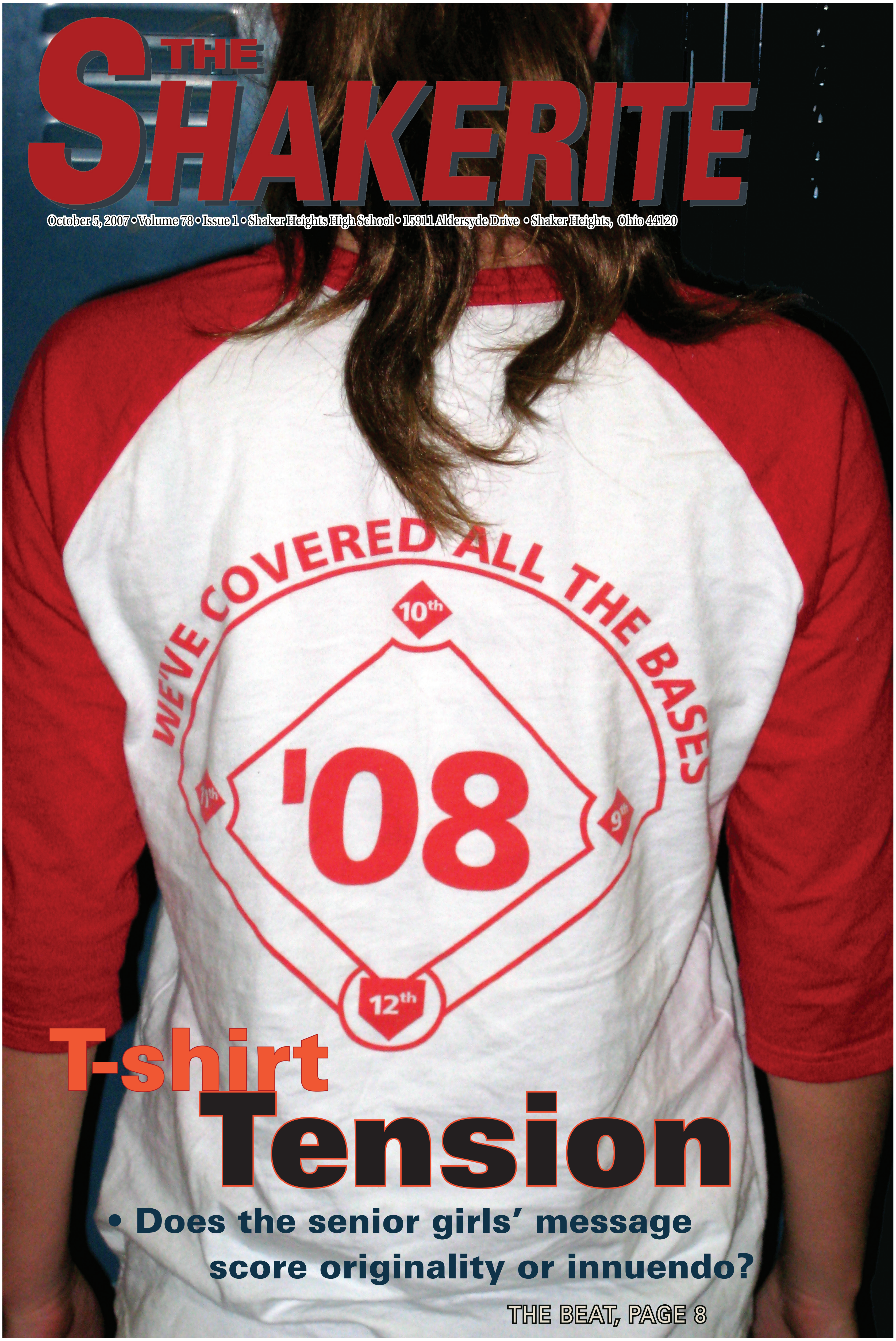
WE'VE COVERED ALL THE BASES
10th
11th
9th
'08
12th

T-shirt Tension

- Does the senior girls' message score originality or innuendo?

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FRAU TO FRAU

AFTER SWAPPING JOBS, CARS AND COUNTRIES WITH GERMAN TEACHER ANDREA BRADD-LAGGAN, IRENE STEIGHART HAS TAKEN HER PLACE AT SHHS

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FAKING FEUDS AND SELLING RECORDS

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CROSSING COUNTRY AND SETTING RECORDS

DESPITE MULTIPLE INJURIES AND A NEW COACH, WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY HAS WHAT ONE CAPTAIN CALLED THE 'BEST TEAM' EVER.

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COVER SHOT

The baseball metaphor found on the latest installment of the senior girls' T-shirt tradition has prompted some people to cry foul. Photo by Bobby O'Connor

What's Inside

10.05.07

EDITORS' NOTE

Orientation failed

Memories of the first day of high school at Shaker typically consist of waking up early, solving the mystery that is your locker combination and testing the passing routes you plotted over the summer.

Unfortunately for the class of 2011, these common yet cherished recollections will likely be replaced by frustrating images of aimless tours, late and often erroneous class schedules and hundreds of freshmen beginning the school year essentially disoriented.

WESLEY LOWERY

Freshman orientation usually employs a troupe of 20-30 upperclassman volunteers whose responsibilities include leading freshmen by homeroom on a building tour and answering ninth-graders' questions. These volunteers are themselves oriented at a meeting prior to the first day of school

This year, the brevity of the Aug. 24 upperclassmen meeting foreshadowed the chaos to ensue when freshmen arrived Aug. 27. The approximately 15 minutes of instruction proved inadequate as upperclassmen soon found themselves in the direct line of fire of confused, overwhelmed and often disruptive freshmen.

ALLISON SCHARFSTEIN

Many of these upperclassmen were day-of walk-ins drawn by the empty promise of receiving their schedules. Once the initial organizational dust settled, upperclassmen gathered their orientees and proceeded to take them on interminable building tours that devolved into wandering the halls and dropping in on teachers who were unprepared for freshman visitors.

The crowning disaster however, occurred Aug. 28, when the upperclassman leaders failed to show up for the second half of orientation. Typically, patient and informed upperclassmen facilitate discussions during an extended freshman homeroom, and ninth-graders ask the older students questions they would not ask an adult.

It seems an administrator told the upperclassmen they didn't have to show up for day two, and a morning of improvisation ensued.

Overall, this year's freshman orientation failed to orient freshman.

Like prom and SGORR tryouts, freshman orientation should be high on the list of important and memorable high school experiences. It is a crucial opportunity to target the high school's newest members and pass down to them practical information that will help them throughout their four years in this building.

For many students, it is the first time that they are exposed to the high school building and its maze of hallways. Orientation should help students get a feel for the building, and they should walk away confident that they can mange their daily route. Most importantly, freshmen have apprehension about entering the high school world and if nothing else, orientation should quell some of their fears.

Freshman orientation has done these things and can do them again if more care is taken to organize a meaningful experience.

SHAKER RIVALRIES

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Political
Prisoner
In Training

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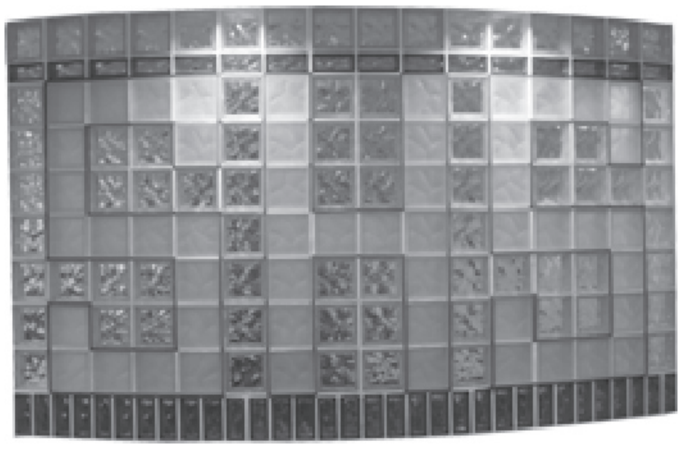

LOOKING THROUGH THE GLASS

NOTEWORTHY EXAMINES THE CONTROVERSIAL GLASS-BLOCK WALL IN FRONT OF THE SOON-TO-BE SENIOR LOUNGE. IT READS 'SHS,' AN ACROYNM PREVIOUSLY UNFAMILIAR TO THE SHAKER HEIGHTS COMMUNITY

NOTEWORTHY, 5

THE SHAKERITE
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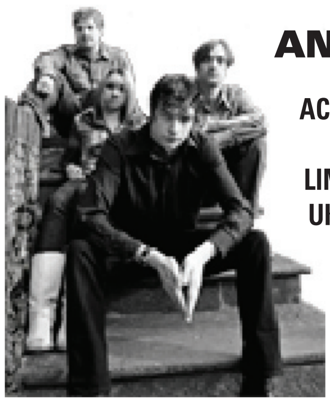

ANOTHER SHAKER?

ACROSS THE ATLANTIC ANOTHER SHAKER IS ROCKING OUT. LIMELIGHT SCORED A Q&A WITH UK BAND THE SHAKER HEIGHTS

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This Month

10.05.07

OCTOBER OVERVIEW

School is back in session and with October here, it looks as though students and staff are finally getting back into the swing of things. To start October off right, attend the homecoming dance Oct. 6th. Get a head start by checking out the parade around the oval earlier in the day. German Club has won the float competition three years in a row; be there and see if they can capture a fourth straight victory. If that's not enough to keep you going, just remember that Oct. 26th marks the end of the first grading period.

RAISING AWARENESS

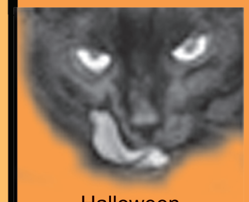
October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, dedicated to helping both men and women across America learn more about the disease and how to detect it early. By the end of 2007, an estimated 178,480 women and 2,030 men will have been diagnosed with breast cancer. It is the second most common kind of cancer among American women (skin cancer is the most common). Some easy things we can do to help? Save your Yoplait yogurt pink lids. For every lid mailed back to them, Yoplait will donate 10 cents to research efforts, and it adds up. Race for the cure is another great way to raise money and awareness; there will be a race in Columbus this May. Encourage all the women you know to give themselves regular breast self-exams. Early detection can make the difference between life and death. Want to know more about how you can help? Visit www.nbcam.com for a list of local events and more information on breast cancer.

CHOW DOWN

Americans enjoy 100 acres of pizza each year, and the month of October is dedicated to celebrating this favorite food. There are 61,219 pizzerias in the United States, but where can Shaker students get quality pizza locally? If you like delivery but don't want to support a chain, try Pizza Pan, located on the corner of Van Aken and Lee. Pizza Pan is locally run, with locations in Shaker and Newbury, Ohio. If you'd prefer a place to sit down and relax, try Pizzazz. Conveniently located at Fairmount Circle, Pizzazz serves great pizza featuring a variety of toppings, including grilled eggplant and chicken sausage. If your budget is tight, buy a slice for $1 after school in the Egress. However you do it, make sure to find a delicious way to celebrate National Pizza Month!

Compiled By Abby Schiller

october

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	Tennis vs. Solon @ 4:00 p.m. Home 4	♪ Maroon 5 at The Q @ 8:00 p.m. 5	Football vs. Mentor @ 2:00 p.m. Home Homecoming Dance 8-11 PM 6
7	Women's Soccer vs. Mentor @ 4:30 p.m. Home 8	 World Smile Day 9	10	Volleyball vs. Mentor Home TBA ♪ Blind Melon at The Grog Shop @ 9:00 p.m. 11	Professional Day No School Grades K-12 12	Men's Soccer vs. Chagrin Falls@ 4:30 p.m. Home 13
 National Dessert Day 14	PIcture Re-take Day 15	16	♪ Choir Concert at the Middle Scholl@ 7:30 p.m. 17	18	19	Crew to the Head of The Charles Regatta in Boston 20
 Sweetest Day 21	22	 TV Talk Show Host Day 23	24	♪ Ween at The House of Blues @ 8:00 p.m 25	End of First Grading Period 26	Football vs. Maple Heights @ 2:00 p.m. Home 27
28	 National Frankenstein Day 29	30	 Halloween 31			

TO DRESS OR NOT TO DRESS

Everyone knows that Oct. 31 is Halloween! A favorite among Shaker students, the holiday tempts students to dress up for school. However, it is often difficult to determine the school-appropriateness of spooky outfits. "Costumes must be positive and cannot be offensive . . . and students are not permitted to wear masks," Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson said. If you can't think of a costume, check out costume stores such as Party City; you never know what kind of silly outfits you'll find. Tight on cash? Make your own costume at home! Dressing up as an animal or a character from a movie can be easy and fun. Chipotle Burrito costumes were popular among Shaker students last year; wrap yourself in tinfoil and head over to Chipotle, where you will get a free burrito if you're dressed as one!

5 Fun Costume Ideas

1. CHIPOTLE BURRITO
2. CRAYOLA CRAYON
3. POWER RANGER
4. POWER PUFF GIRL
5. M&M

CLUBS WITHOUT ADVISERS

Student Council, Junior Council on World Affairs and Speech and Debate Club began the year without faculty advisers. JCWA is now in the hands of social studies teacher Tony Cuda and special education teacher Stacy Steggart. Eric Hutchinson will serve as Student Council's only adviser although traditionally there are two. Hutchinson said that while he enjoys his role, it's made harder because there is no other adult to share the responsibilities. "It's nice to have a Robin when you're supposed to be Batman," Hutchinson said. Speech and Debate still does not have an adviser. Bob White, a Latin and Greek teacher, was the adviser last year.

DELAYED SCHEDULES CAUSE SCHOOLWIDE FRUSTRATION

BY ALEXA SYKES
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

Su Dong • The Shakerite

DUE TO MISTAKES in their schedules, students gather in the main office after school to pick up Schedule Change Request forms.

The opening day of school bore surprises as students saw their schedules for the first time Aug. 28.

A letter was sent out Aug. 14 informing students and parents that high school students would receive their schedules in their homeroom classes on the first day of school. In previous years, students received schedules in the mail around the beginning of August.

The delay was the result of problems with Data Analysis of Student Learning, a two-year-old software program that processes schedules and report cards.

"It [DASL] has the potential to be very good, but we are an experimental district," guidance counselor David Peterjohn said. "We're still working through all the kinks."

Late schedules were not the only issue. Errors in many student schedules duplicated some courses and omitted others. For example, a schedule may have featured two English courses and no science course.

Principal Michael Griffith said no logical explanation was apparent from the administrative perspective. "Something happened to the schedules during the transition from the counselors to the database that caused these problems," he said.

In addition to DASL troubles, personnel and data processing issues complicated scheduling. Some teachers left the high school following the 2006-2007 school year and were not replaced and a few new teachers were hired close to the beginning of school.

As a result, classroom sizes fluctuated and some classes were offered but not actually assigned to a teacher. These events made accurate scheduling harder to achieve.

The schedule delay complicated the opening of school for teachers, who received class lists later than usual.

Also, some students who received erroneous schedules and were unwilling to wait for an official correction, tried to attend classes they weren't registered for.

However, teachers were instructed to turn away any students who did not appear on their attendance lists.

Freshman students felt a unique impact. In past years, they received schedules early enough to find their classrooms and plot their routes through the building during summer vacation.

This year, because they received schedules the day before school started during freshman orientation, navigating through the building was tougher.

"I was worried about ninth graders figuring out their schedules," Griffith said.

Freshman Andy Mitro agreed that it took a few days to get accustomed to the high school with his schedule in his possession for the first time Aug. 27. "It took me until about the third day of school to find my way around," he said.

With regard to upperclassmen, Griffith did not think that the late schedules were much of a problem.

"I don't believe it was a huge impact on the other students," he said. "Socially, students weren't able to compare their schedules [with each other] before school began, and that was about it. I think there is a comfort level for students to know that they've gotten their schedule."

Still, the delay frustrated many, and some took their grievances to the Internet.

Sophomore Brandon Patterson created a Facebook group called "Pissed Because We Don't Get Our Schedules Until The First Day of School" that attracted more than 150 members.

"Every other year we got [schedules] before school, but this year we didn't, and it just caused chaos," Patterson said.

Griffith said that no decision has been made about future schedule distributions.

He added that everything turned out all right, considering the severity of problems with DASL.

"We are more concerned if schedules come out right, not when they come out," Griffith said.

Old-school study hall redefined by GPA standard

BY MICHAEL COWETT
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

Study hall at Shaker used to be notorious as a 50-minute period in which students did nothing -- if they attended at all. If a new strategy proves successful, that will no longer be the case.

Beginning this year, study hall is split into two distinct assigned activities: study center, for students with grade point averages above 2.0, and academic lab, for those whose GPA is below 2.0.

Study center is designed much like the old study hall, a quiet work time which students may spend as they wish; academic lab is more structured.

"The academic lab consists of a small group of students [fewer than 15] assigned to a team consisting of one English and one science teacher," Michael Becker, a science teacher and proctor of the 4/5 period academic lab, stated in an email interview.

"The teaching team is there to help the students set daily goals and make sure students are working to reach them.

"Most of the time the students do their homework or read, and the teachers are there to support and ensure this happens."

Junior Brittany Davis, a student in first period academic lab agrees it is helpful.

"It's like a study hall, but you can get help. They [old study hall proctors] don't really care what you do; you can go to sleep. Here, they encourage you to get your work done."

The changes occurred in response to concerns that study hall was not a productive experience for students. "[Principal Michael] Griffith came to the Steering Committee with his concerns about study hall," said English teacher Carole Kovach, who chaired the committee last year.

"He felt that it was a disservice to kids who are struggling to sit in a study hall doing nothing in an unstructured environment."

Becker explained that this setup works better than traditional study hall. "Less than half of the students used the time to seriously work on academics.

"Already, my students are doing much more work and are more focused than they would [be] in a large study hall setting."

Homecoming petition rumors blanket Shaker

Contrary to escalating rumors about a parent petition, there will be no change in school policy at the Homecoming dance Oct. 6.

Parent chaperones will not be admitted into the gym during the dance, and security guards and administrators will not remove students from the event based on the way they are dancing. There will be an adjustment, however, in the music selection. Principal Michael Griffith said he will approve the playlist that the DJ prepares for the dance to ensure it includes various genres of music. Griffith said he hopes that the variation in music will change the atmosphere at the dance so a broader range of students will feel comfortable attending.

"I hope to encourage new dancing by choosing more diverse music," he said.

According to Griffith, only 300-350 students attend dances at the high school; he believes hundreds of other students do not attend the dances because of the "excessive drinking and grinding . . . It really isn't everybody," said Griffith, "but [dance behavior] is alienating almost 300 other kids and making another 20 percent of kids at the dance feel uncomfortable."

Griffith said that several parents of new students and freshmen spoke up at a recent PTO meeting, sharingwhat their children reported about suggestive behavior at the Back To School Dance. Some parents offered to pay admission into the dance so they could patrol the gym and monitor students.

Griffith explained that parents would not be allowed this privilege because he feels it would create a battle between adults and students. Griffith is also unwilling to "do things like Breathalyze," because it would defeat the purpose of the event. He wants to create a responsible, safe and fun environment for all students.

Large Auditorium mishap

Despite a construction accident that activated the building sprinkler system and sounded the fire alarm Sept. 20, renovation of the Large Auditorium continues on schedule.

Although water could be seen streaming from the ceiling when the auditorium doors were open at noon, little lasting damage occurred.

The renovations, including new seating, lighting and sound should be completed in December.

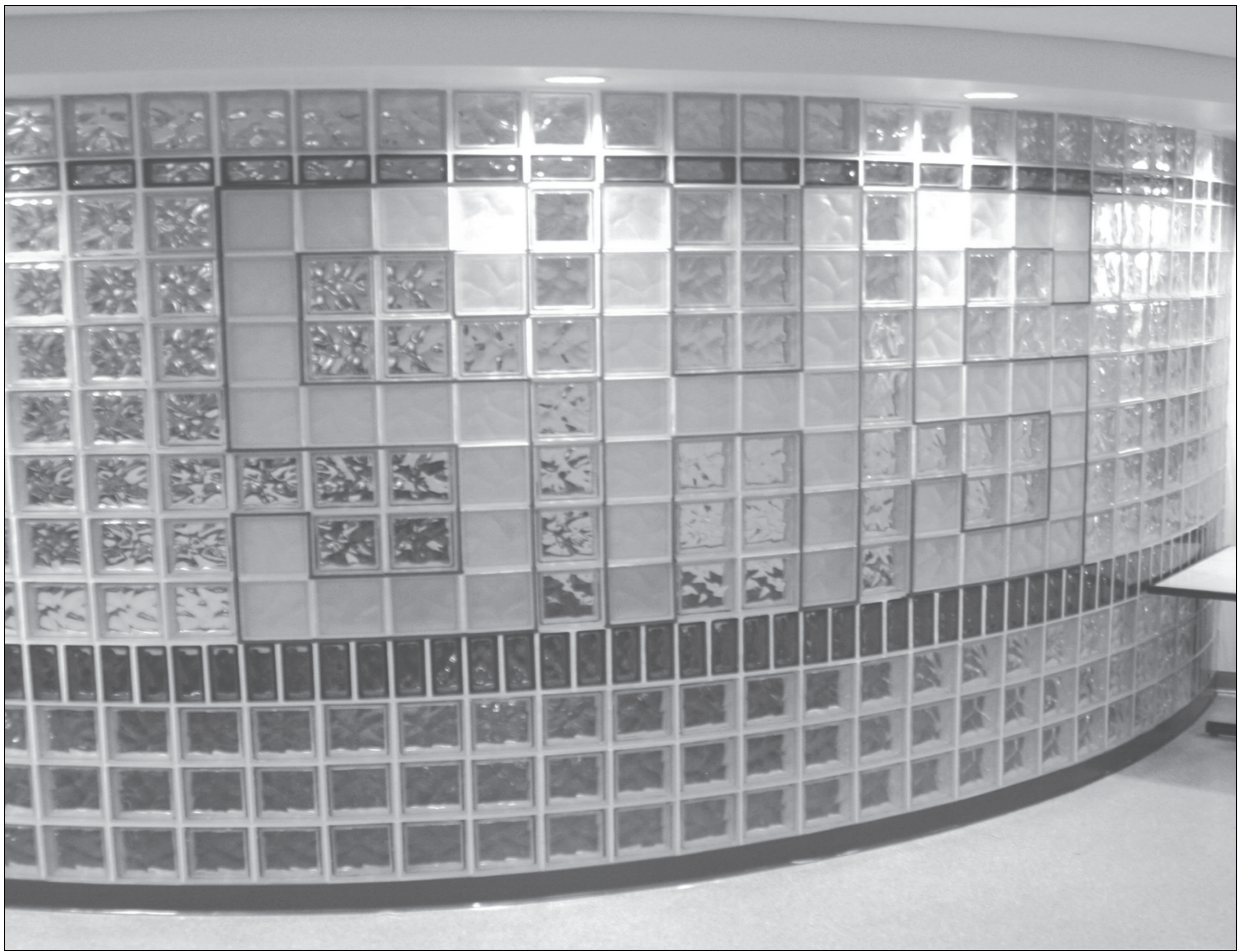
For Christine McBurney, the theater department chairwoman, the upgrade to the light and sound systems is the most important change. She said that limits once placed on the theater program by the systems will be removed because of the improvements. Although the three Ensemble classes usually meet in the Large Auditorium, the Senior and Advanced Ensembles now meet in TC-130, a theater classroom, and the Junior Ensemble gathers in the choir room.

Shaker academic news

- The class of 2008 boasts 17 National Merit Semifinalists. They are David Barach, Jared Beachy, Meredith Boyd, Alyssa Cohen, Alex Grossman-Mckee, Nathan Langhinrichs, Thomas Neil, Lena Newman, Alison O'Connor, Allison Paetz, Abigail Pink, Susanna Pretzer, Scott Rownd, Daniel Strassfeld, Michael Triozzi, Robert White and Julia Wilson.
- The high school met 11 out of 12 benchmarks, equivalent to a rating of effective, on the report card issued by the Ohio Department of Education for 2006-07. The only standard not met came on the 10th grade Ohio Graduation Test for science.

The high school's performance index was 99.7 -- higher than last year but still below the score for 2004-05.

However, the district did not meet the federal Adequate Yearly Progress requirements because reading scores for students with special needs did not meet the standard. Overall, the district met 23 out of 30 benchmarks, also a rating of effective. The District failed to meet AYP on reading scores for economically disadvantaged students and special-needs students as well as math scores for students with special needs.



Su Dong • The Shakerite

THE NEW LARGE glass-block wall in the cafeteria puzzled some students as they noticed it read "SHS" rather than the traditional "SHHS." However, the wall is a permanent addition to the cafeteria and will not be changed.

WALL SPARKS MIXED REVIEWS

BY ALEXA SYKES
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

Something is missing for Shaker students. It's not their homework or their lunch money, but rather a certain letter on the new glass-block wall in the cafeteria.

Originally, the glass-block wall, just one product of more than three months' construction, was supposed to feature an "S" in a circle, representing the "S" in Shaker.

Instead, three, five-foot letters that spelled SHS, which many associated with Solon High School, greeted students.

"I think the wall should say SHHS, because we have never been called Shaker High School," said junior Heather Froimson, who thinks the unique acronym is an accident.

Conversely, freshman Deanna Wilson thought the SHS was completely logical. "I just thought it stood for Shaker High School," she said.

Principal Michael Griffith could only speculate about the error. "The change might have been because of the amount of space available," Griffith said.

Jim Neville, of Christian-Klopper Architects, is in charge of the cafeteria construction. His office devised the idea to construct the curved glass block wall, and plan to use the glass design in other places as the cafeteria develops.

"As future cafeteria improvements are implemented, we anticipate using a lot of the curved glass block in this area," Neville stated in an e-mail interview.

The architects intended "SHHS" for the glass wall, but abandoned the four-letter approach because of space constraints. "We did consider using the 'SHHS,' but it simply didn't fit on the space available and we couldn't make the curved wall any longer within the space available," Neville stated. " 'S' was also discussed as a possibility, but 'SHS' simply ended up having broader appeal among the group that we were working with."

According to Neville, "SHS" was selected as a reflection of the Shaker Heights Schools.

"This was felt to be an important recognition that the new cafeteria spaces, both upstairs and downstairs, are being constructed not only to benefit students of the high school, but also for use by the broader community of Shaker Heights residents," Neville stated.

Neville explained that "SHS" also represents "Shaker High Seniors," because the senior lounge will reside behind the wall. "Everyone felt [SHS] reinforced the unique, set-aside use of that space. It's my recollection that it was really this reason that the group agreed on the SHS, though others might disagree," stated Neville.

Neville added that "SHS" is a permanent improvement, and will not be changed in the future. "It is not a temporary decoration," Neville stated.

No matter the letters, the glass wall will soon enclose the senior lounge, accessible only to seniors after the cafeteria is completed in January. The decision to move the senior lounge to the cafeteria from its previous location in the basement, where it has resided for seven years, occurred for several reasons.

The most important was an effort to cut down lunchtime traffic between the cafeteria and the lounge. "We want to consolidate where there is needed movement," Griffith said.

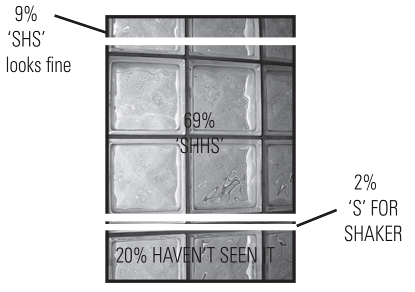
Movement during lunch periods occurs because of the cafeteria's small size. The smallest lunch period contains about 460 students, but the fire code only allows 370. Students take their food out into the hallways and staircases, often distracting nearby classes.

The newly built lounge, as well as the restrooms built into the cafeteria, will offer one place where students can access food and socialize in a comfortable environment.

It will be large enough to offer all students a place to eat during their lunch periods.

After the cafeteria construction is complete, students will not be allowed to eat throughout the building.

THE 'SHS' WALL SHOULD SAY . . .



A scientific telephone poll of 104 students conducted by The Shakerite staff, margin of error +/- 9.8 percent

Infographic by Bobby O'Connor and Alexa Sykes

Shaker Speaks
10.05.07

POLITICS PLAY VARIED ROLE IN STUDENTS' PERSONAL LIVES

• You are what you eat: making a statement with the dinner plate

LENA NEWMAN

We've all heard it before "You are what you eat." But, in addition to affecting our bodies, the food we consume affects the world. The personal is political, especially the food we eat.

As a vegetarian for eight years, I've changed my diet to sync with my political views. By not eating meat, I'm helping animals, people and the environment.

For obvious reasons, refraining from eating meat helps animals. Caught up in the cruel tines of agribusiness, any shred of humane treatment of animals is sacrificed to benefit the profit margin. Meat bought at the supermarket comes from cows and chickens that are crammed into pens that offer barely enough space to move. They spend their lives inside a factory farm, force-fed food and hormones that aren't part of their natural diets. By not eating meat, I am refusing to support the cruel treatment of animals.

Factory farms don't just cause harm to the animals they house, they also wreak serious havoc on the environment. The unnatural concentration of so many animals in a place like a factory farm creates a massive waste problem. Because the animals are consuming more than they would normally, they are producing more waste. And what better place to put waste than a pond? Factory farms are notorious for creating huge ponds where they dump all of the animal waste, leaving it to seep into the surrounding ground and degrade the quality of drinking water.

In addition to contaminating water, factory farms put extra stress on the earth through their use of grains. All of the crops needed to feed the animals that become meat represent a gross misuse of resources. Growing all of those crops uses large quantities of water, contributes to deforestation and robs nutrients from the soil. Instead of using those crops to feed people, the majority ends up as feed for animals. If the grain used to produce meat were distributed directly to people, instead of through the meat they consume, we could feed the world.

My vegetarian choice hasn't ended world hunger, but it has made me feel better by living my life in accordance with my politics. It isn't so much about giving up meat as it is about doing my part. Anyone can help animals and the environment simply by changing shopping habits. You don't have to stop buying meat. Choosing brands that are free-range or organic is a great first step in eating ethically. Free-range animals are not raised on factory farms and live more natural lives. Meat that is organic means no pesticides were used in the food those animals ate, thus protecting the environment from harmful chemicals. Also, buying food that is locally grown, be it at a farmer's market or at Heinen's, is an easy way to support the local economy and sustainable agriculture. Big-name, non-organic brands are usually a sign that that item, meat or otherwise, was not cultivated in a sustainable manner.

You can also express your opinions about animal rights and agribusiness by supporting candidates who hold views similar to yours. Websites like www.votesmart.org let you check any member of Congress' voting record, and you can review votes by issue (including animal rights and agricultural issues). By making a few small changes in your daily life and exercising your right to vote, you can live in accordance with your personal politics and practice what you preach.

FREE DAN & PHIL
18/21
McGovern
MY FIRST VOTE
A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN HER UNION
MARCH to IMPEACH NIXON
APRIL 27th
MOYER O'DONNELL & LANZINGER FOR OHIO SUPREME COURT
vote socialist workers ohio - 1970
Do you feel a DRAFT in here?
Political Prisoner In Training
WILPF
DOING MY PART TO PISS OFF THE RELIGIOUS RIG
CARCIERI Governor
moratorium
october 13, 1971
SOLIDARITY DAY
LABOR STANDS UNITED
SEPT 19, 1981
Free Angela
WOMEN'S ENCAMPMENT FOR PEACE & JUSTICE
July 4 - Sept. 5 / Seneca Army
CATALYST FOR CHANGE
SHIRLEY CHISHOLM FOR PRESIDENT
TO TEXAS

BUSH CHENEY '04
THERE IS NO MAD TOFU DISEASE

INFACT
Count on me to boycott GE
Enoug
Ever V
epublic
JESSE JACKSON
1984
FOR PRESIDENT
McGOVERN
FOR PRESIDENT
1972
LESBIANS IGNITE
WOMEN! MAKE POLICY NOT COFFEE
April 24 1971
Peoples Coalition
overpopulation
IT'S EVERYBODY'S PROBLEM!
He's done a lot
ROCKEFELLER
He'll do more
McCARTHY

Infographic by Lena Newman

• Shaker not so far from Jena

Some have compared the recent Jena 6 protests to the legendary civil rights marches in Selma and Montgomery, Alabama. Despite the distance between Jena, Louisiana and Shaker Heights, Ohio, the response has reached the greater Cleveland area as the case has quickly resonated throughout the country. According to the Los Angeles Times, last September one African-American student, after consulting an administrator at Jena High School, took a seat beneath a tree known unofficially as the "white tree." Three nooses appeared in the tree the following morning, leading to the brief suspensions for three white students.

'rite idea

Three months later, six African-American students were arrested and charged with the assault of a white classmate. The initial charges of second-degree attempted murder were later reduced to charges such as aggravated battery. Many people claimed a racial double-standard was at work in the school's and prosecutor's decisions.

The situation spurred local and national protest, including a 400-person march in downtown Cleveland Sept. 20. Members of the high school community, in an act of solidarity, posted fliers and wore black clothing. The date was significant because it coincided with the appeal date for Mychal Bell, the only member of the "Jena 6" to be convicted thus far.

It is easy for Shaker to look at the situation in Jena with a sense of superiority, considering our history in overcoming racial tensions. And while outrage over the intolerance in Jena is justified, Shaker students and teachers must nevertheless take this circumstance as an opportunity to examine the divisions within our own community.

Shaker must see in Jena the worst manifestation of tribalism in a school setting. While Shaker lacks the severe racial segregation and hate crimes of Jena, we are only a few steps removed from what happened in Louisiana.

This high school is defined by the tribes we create. Whether based on academic achievement, athletic status or extracurricular activity, the divisions are clear. Shaker is a politically correct, tolerant community, and conflict between groups has yet to erupt. However, like any community, an extreme act of hate could shatter Shaker's calm exterior.

The outrage in response to "Jena 6" should be harnessed not only into civil rights activism, but also into breaking down the boundaries our student body has inherited and built. The divisions among Shaker students must be flexible and easily traversed. If Shaker's tribes become too exclusive, we may find ourselves in jeopardy of a "Jena 6" scale controversy.

• Parents teach importance of political knowledge, action

JOSH DAVIDSON

I still don't understand how the majority of my peers find politics "boring."

What could be possibly boring about it? Politicians, the laws they make and their numerous disputes are central to every part of our daily lives.

I find the daily actions in Washington to be riveting and of the utmost importance to my life. I religiously read political magazines on both the left and right and the collection of paperbacks by '60s radicals is growing mountainous on my desk.

Yet, this intense devotion to the political world did not come about through studying the epochs of World, European or American history.

While the teachers of these respective classes have taught me how to interpret and understand politics, the love I have for it comes from my parents.

Politics is the reason my family exists. My mom met my dad when they were both 18 and canvassing for what would become Ohio Citizen Action, a very powerful environmental organization that holds major clout to this day. After two years apart while my dad attended Tri-C, they reunited at the liberal Mecca of Ohio, Oberlin College. Yet the campus itself was not political or radical enough for them, so their friendship was strengthened through their active membership in Democratic Socialists of America.

My parents were so involved in radical politics that my mother's first job out of college was organizing a Socialist Feminist Conference in Chicago, and my dad moved there with her so they could stay together.

This emphasis on politics continued as they started and raised a family.

I will never forget the first conversation I had with a classmate in fourth grade about family friends of ours who were lesbian.

My fellow student was utterly shocked by the notion that two women could live together and be in love. To me it was totally normal.

From the day I was born my parents raised me around gay people and taught me that, contrary to the homophobic filth continually spewed forth from the hideous mouths of the right wing, gay people were people just like me and were also great friends.

This is only one example of the plethora of political discussion and action that fills my house both morning and night.

My dad, nowhere close to a morning person, will become furious when reading the morning headlines, questioning how the hell these bastards in Washington have the right to filibuster every attempt to end a hugely unpopular war.

My mother regularly asks me if I want to go to a march -- for Darfur, against the war in Iraq, or in support of peace. According to most of my friends, it is a serious fight to persuade their parents to let them attend a demonstration. In my house, it is normal behavior.

My parents made a conscious decision to raise their children in a politically active environment, so for me politics are not boring but rather an intrinsic part of my life. And this November my mom and I will be at the polls, voting together for the first time, at 6:30 a.m.

"Personal politics means that you take responsibility for what you believe in."

Courtney Johnson • senior

"[Politics] impacts you indirectly based on your age and area."

Rachyl Wright • junior

"Politics don't play much of a role, it's just something to kind of read about."

Connor Hunt • sophomore

"Even in high school, politics affects who we hang out with and stuff even though most of us are Democrats or Republicans based on our parents."

Alex Brian • senior

"I choose not to support stores that sell clothing made with sweatshop labor."

Casey Slive • junior

"It doesn't play any role. I don't take government. Don't even listen in global studies."

Branden Murphy • freshman

heard in the halls

Student: "You don't want to read that…"
Teacher: "Probably not, but…"
Student: "They're my rap lyrics."
9/26

"Get off my seersucker!"
9/20

"Dude, I didn't know girls farted until, like, three years ago!"
9/18

TWO FRAUS EXCHANGING LIVES

BY DIANA JACK
THE BEAT EDITOR

After swapping apartments, cars, jobs and students, Andrea Bradd-Laggan and Irene Steighart dived into a unique, refreshing cultural experience.

Bradd-Laggan, a Shaker German teacher, negotiated the trade with Steighart, an English teacher in Goslar, Germany, after her 2006 visit to Germany. The schools have had a program for 30 years through annual exchanges.

Steighart said she has always wanted to do something of this kind and decided that it was now or never.

"You have to work on the fulfillment of your dreams right now and not postpone them," said Steighart.

Bradd-Laggan considered and agreed to the trade.

"It wasn't actually an easy decision, but since I had done a Fulbright Teacher Exchange already (in France), and knew how rewarding it is, I decided to take the opportunity," Bradd-Laggan said. Fulbright, a worldwide teacher exchange program swaps participants' jobs for as long as a year, which the Shaker-Goslar duo chose.

With the year in full swing, both of the teachers find their new jobs stimulating and challenging.

Bradd-Laggan noted 14 major differences between the German and American systems, like that students in Germany stay in the same class from the fifth to the eleventh grade, and school ends around 1 p.m. Bradd-Laggan said she loves the culture of Goslar and really admires the 400-year-old architecture.

Steighart said she is also enjoying and adjusting to her new environment .

"The best parts [of America] are the people, the school, and the campus-like surroundings," Steighart said.

However, with the change of lifestyle comes the change in subjects: Bradd-Laggan is teaching English and Steighart, German.

"At first, it was really confusing for me as a German to use a German grammar book, in which the explanations are in English and the examples are in German. I am used to just the opposite," Steighart said.

Despite this discrepancy, both are excelling. Steighart's students and co-worker say she is doing an excellent job.

"On the first day of school [Steighart] was talking in German, and it's a German I class, but she's taught us a lot by just speaking and having us study," said sophomore German I student Hattie Gemerchak.

Keith Szalay, the other German teacher, noted, "The students are enjoying her class and learning a lot. I can only imagine how difficult it has been to switch."

Bradd-Laggan's students in Germany are enjoying the exchange. "It is very interesting to be [taught] by an actual American because Mrs. Bradd speaks English like an American and not [like a German]," said one of Bradd-Laggan's 11th grade students.

While abroad, the teachers stay in touch with their homes and students. Goslar students will visit starting Oct. 7, and the Shaker students may be treated to video conversations with Bradd-Laggan via the Internet. The two teachers correspond and support one another.

"Frau Steighart and I keep in touch, and she seems to be enjoying Shaker, the high school and life in America. My advice: Enjoy the year!" Bradd-Laggan said.

Su Dong • The Shakerite

IRENE STEIGHART EXPLAINS a concept to the students in her German I class. They are sitting down after standing to show respect for their teacher, a German tradition. Frau Steighart is part of an exchange program between Shaker's German teacher and Goslar's English teacher.

top 5 EXAMPLES OF SUGGESTIVE SCHOOL APPAREL

5. "I'm 'n' Trebel"
   -Trebel Choir 2003-04
4. "We like it on top"
   -Shaker Senior Girls 2005
3. "Life's a Pitch"
   -Shaker Fastpitch 2007
2. "Only A Soprano Could Hit This"
   -A Capella Trebel Choir 2006-07
1. "We're the fast girls your mother warned you about"
   -Shaker Swimming 2005-06

Infographic by Diana Jack and Adria Kinney

Senior shirts viewed as sexy

BY ADRIA KINNEY
THE BEAT EDITOR

The senior girl shirts claim that the senior girls have scored, but the T-shirts have struck out with what some view as sexual innuendo.

The red-and-white shirts say "Senoritas" on the front, but it is the message on the back that has some people questioning the appropriateness of the shirts. The text reads, "We've covered all the bases," and a graphic depicts a baseball diamond with the four bases labeled 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades.

Although the notion of "reaching base" has long served as a metaphor for sexual activity, Senior Viveca Tress said that the shirts are innocent and intend no innuendo. Tress is the previous junior class president of Student Council, the organization that designed the shirts.

"I found a long list of slogans online and brought it to a [council] meeting," Tress said. "We used that as a starting point to brainstorm . . . we just wanted them to be really fun and cool."

Senior Scott Rownd doesn't see a hidden message within the slogan. "I don't think they intended the shirts to be sexual," Rownd said. "I think they were just going for the fact that they've covered all four years of high school."

Fellow senior Hartley Brody, president of Student Council, disagrees. "By the attitude at the meeting, the girls were trying to see what they could get away with," Brody said.

Sophomore Ashley Tall also thinks the shirts suggest promiscuous behavior. "That's nasty," Tall said of the slogan. "That's talking sexually, hinting at doing this and that . . . we should be more godly."

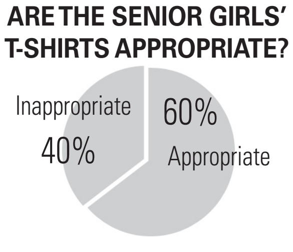
Although Student Council settled on "We've covered all the bases" as their final slogan, it was not their first idea. They first submitted "We like it on top" as their slogan, but they were met with opposition from the administration.

"They completely turned it down," Tress said.

Despite Shaker's tradition of senior girl T-shirts, there have never been T-shirts for senior boys. "I think it's only because there aren't many boys in Student Council, but also because T-shirts aren't considered to be macho," Brody said. Nevertheless, Brody and fellow senior Sam Weir considered making T-shirts for the senior boys this year using Brody's own T-shirt business. "It started as a joke; we basically just started coming up with crude slogans we thought would be funny."

Brody understands the administration's position. "It's Student Council doing it, and what we do reflects on the entire school, so of course the faculty's going to be concerned," Brody said. "But at the same time, it's our last year of high school, and we're just trying to have some fun . . . if it's a little inappropriate, that's just how kids are."

ARE THE SENIOR GIRLS' T-SHIRTS APPROPRIATE?



A scientific telephone poll of 82 students conducted by The Shakerite staff, margin of error +/- 11 percent

MTV CENSORS SONG DUE TO CASUAL USE OF 'SUICIDE'

Recently MTV began to censor videos featuring the word "suicide," most notably Sean Kingston's "Beautiful Girls." "Because we know [suicide] is an issue that so many members of our audience struggle with, we do not take any references to suicide lightly," a spokeswoman for MTV told the New York Daily News. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among people age 15-24.

CHANGING TIMES, CHANGING TUNES

• Excited and innovative orchestra teacher hopes to bring increased drive and vitality to program

Kelsey DeForest • The Shakerite

DONNA DEHN PLAYS a short piece on her pink violin, which she had brought to school to show her classes. Dehn explained that she recieved the violin, along with a similar red one, as gifts from friends who found them on eBay. Violin is Dehn's primary instrument.

BY KELSEY DEFOREST
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

Unabashedly enthusiastic and generally peppy, Donna Dehn, the new high school and eighth grade orchestra teacher, brings energy and drive to the orchestra program.

Dehn (pronounced dane) has settled right into her new role. "I love [Shaker]," reported Dehn shortly after the start of the new school year. "I love it. The energy in all the orchestras is really positive and we are having a good time. I think kids are really excited. I'm really excited."

Dehn's passion for teaching in school is relatively young; she didn't even consider the career until a lucky turn a few years ago.

"My plan was to play violin for my living," she explained. "I went to Oberlin for my undergrad and University of Houston for my master's. And those were both in violin performance. After I got my master's, I returned to Northeast Ohio and started teaching privately."

One day though, an acquaintance in the Brecksville-Broadview Heights school district offered her a two-month position in their orchestra program, filling in for a teacher on sick leave. "I said, 'I've never been in front of a class. I don't even know how to do that.' She said, 'Ah, you will be fine. Don't worry about it,' " recalled Dehn. "So I figured, this is cool. I will double my income for two months, so I did that and I fell in love with it."

Although she started out by chance, Dehn has launched herself into teaching. She comes to Shaker from three years at Cleveland Heights High School's orchestra department. One of her proudest developments there was an end-of-year final project. "I had an amazing final that I did at Heights that I loved," detailed Dehn. "It involved theory and research and score study, and I was really very proud of it and the kids seemed to really like it."

Dehn has yet to decide if she will bring a similar final to the orchestras here. An informal poll of her students, conducted by Dehn, revealed a steadfast opposition to the institution of a final, leading her to consider easing the project in over time.

Whether her final exam finds its way into the curriculum or not, Dehn has high hopes and expectations for the year. "I want for every orchestra that I teach to develop unity as a group and ensemble skills that enable them to collaborate on a higher level," explained Dehn.

"So often in orchestra, each individual person is worried about their individual notes, and it never quite reaches that next level. It is really all about communication . . . You are communicating and interacting with every other person in the room through your instrument, and that is what makes orchestra so fun because it is so social.

"I consider any performance a success," she continued, "when the group on the stage manages to get the notes to jump off the page. Too often you have groups where the notes stay on the page very safely, and that is why their performances are not exciting. You have to get those notes out there and into the audience."

Dehn sees benefits for students who participate in orchestra, many of which will last for life. "Just as we all strive to be a contributing member of society," Dehn concluded, "every member of orchestra should strive to be a contributing member of the group. That is a high goal and it is very, very applicable [to students' lives]."

UK offers more than Harry Potter: New band's ties to Shaker

BY KELSEY DEFOREST
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

Across the Atlantic Ocean there exists another Shaker Heights. It's not a racially diverse, academically renowned suburb. **The Shaker Heights** is a four-piece band homegrown in **Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire in the United Kingdom**. **Vincent Coole** (lead vocals and guitar), **Emile Coole** (keyboard, harmonica, flute and vocals), **Andy Brown** (bass) and **Edd Featherstone** (drums and vocals) form a band whose alternative rock sound is original and full of potential. Limelight connected with The Shaker Heights via email.

Who came up with the name? How?

AB: "I remember I'd just returned from a weekend in Prague and Vince was off working and playing guitar in our garden. We already had our first gig booked, but we needed a name. We searched through numerous books, looking for inspiration, and eventually Vincent saw the Shaker Heights in an atlas. We liked the combination of the musical sounding 'Shaker' and the grandiosity of 'Heights.' We later read more about the Shakers. It was a good choice."

Why are your fans called Shakerites?

VC: "It was a term coined by someone close to the band. He swears he didn't know about your paper!"

You keep a blog with monthly reviews as well as fun stuff about you and your lives. Whose idea was it to start a blog? Why?

VC: "The blog was set up by my dad because he's obsessed with the Internet. He created and manages our website and added the band blog, without the band really knowing anything about it."

Your blog has several references to neckerchiefs. What is the joke behind them?

AB: "There's no joke, Vincent actually wears them as part of his 'look' on stage."

Your music very much has its own style, but who are your top five musical influences?

"Bob Dylan, The Beatles, Arcade Fire, Velvet Underground, Brian Wilson."

What is your least favorite type of music?

VC: "Anything our drummer listens to."

You released the album "Magna Doors" earlier this year. Do you have a favorite song on that CD?

VC: " 'Intimidation' is our favorite recording, though we'd have to say that our favorite song never made it onto the album. It's a song called 'Coliseum Fatigue,' which can be heard on our Myspace page."

EC: "My favorite song on the album is the last track, 'Words to the Open.' "

Are there any other records currently in the works?

AB: "We're keen to record again soon and have various ideas floating about, such as releasing an EP on vinyl, but nothing decided for sure just yet."

Where do the ideas for your songs come from?

VC: "Ideas have varied sources. They can be purely fictional or written about events or principles in my life. Sometimes books or films can trigger ideas."

Any plans to tour the States as of yet? If so, will Shaker Heights be one of your stops?

EC: "If we had the opportunity to tour the states, it would be very cool to stop off in Shaker Heights and maybe play an impromptu gig or at least have some photos taken."

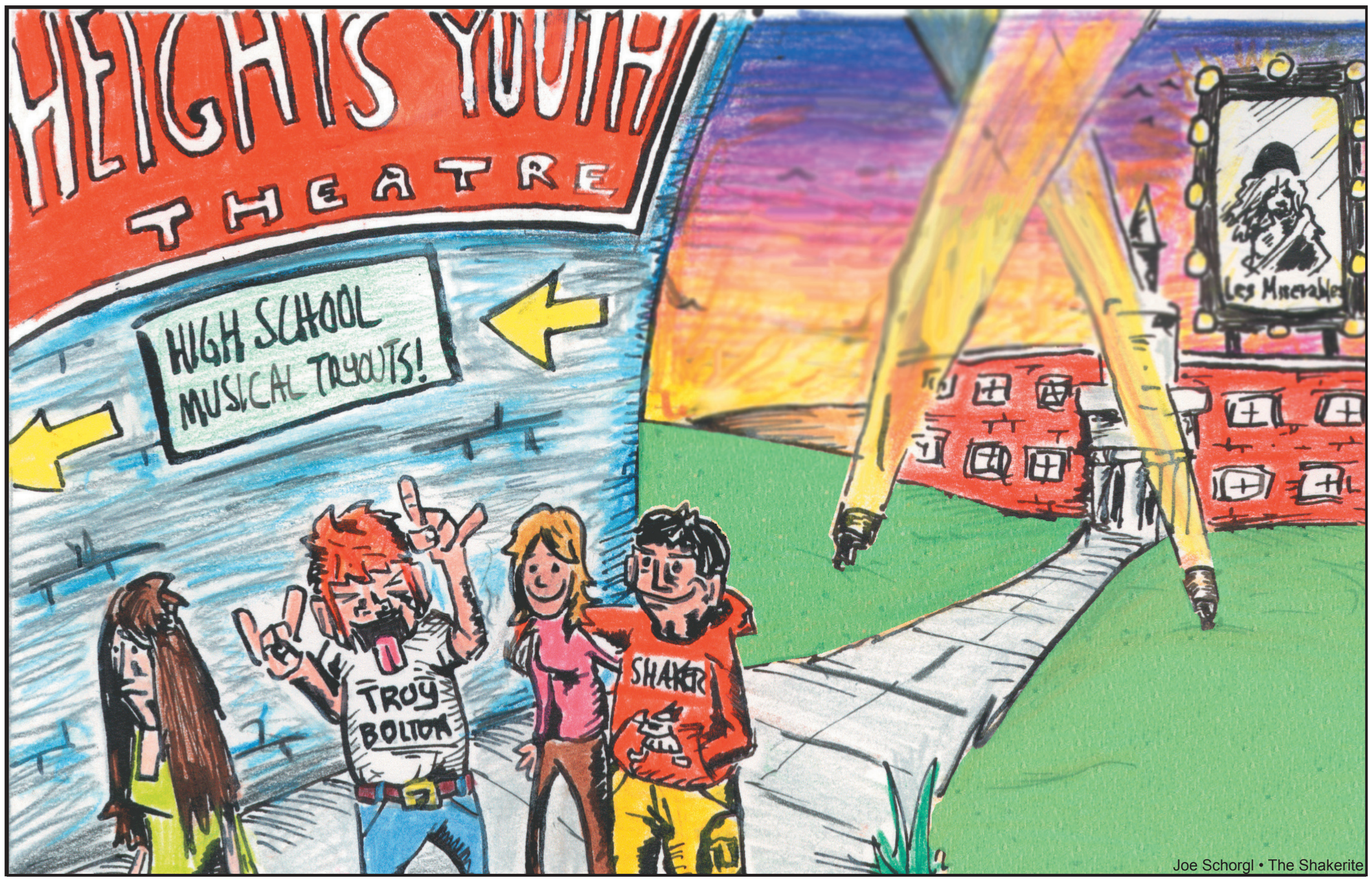
AB: "We're probably more famous in the Shaker Heights now than in Aylesbury, our hometown in the UK."

What is your favorite part about performing live?

VC: "There are moments when everything falls into place and you just know that everyone in the room is with you."

The Shaker Heights
Magna Doors

MAGNA DOORS
BY THE SHAKER HEIGHTS
ALTERNATIVE ROCK
10 TRACKS
AVAILABLE ON ITUNES AND AS CD



Joe Schorgl • The Shakerite

Exploring other stages of growth

• Local theater troupes offer Shaker students extra-curricular roles

BY SIMONE DUVAL
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

What's in a name? Would that which we call Shaker Theatre by any other name smell as sweet? Some theater students are finding out.

The Shaker theatre department offers diverse classes, auditions and opportunities to act, but some students' urge to perform is so strong they are drawn to theatre companies outside the school.

Local troupes such as Heights Youth Theatre, Stagecrafters and Playmakers give area high school students a chance to see what theater is like away from the comforts of Ensemble or Acting I class.

One of the most popular youth theater companies on the East Side of Cleveland, HYT counts among its past performers seniors Max Chernin and Rebecca Semel; sophomores Nick Hyland and Molly Israel; and freshman Austin Murray. According to Lisa Geber, HYT's co-president of the board of trustees, the company typically puts on three to four performances a year and casts anywhere from seven to 125 children per show.

UPCOMING SHOWS, HOME AND AWAY

HYT: "Children of Eden" opens Oct. 27, 2007
Playmakers: "The Nerd" opens Nov. 8, 2007
Stagecrafters: "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" Winter 2007
Shaker Theatre: "The Importance of Being Earnest" Fall 2007

"What's interesting about the productions is that they pull from all of the schools in the area," said Max Chernin, who has starred in "Little Shop of Horrors" at HYT. "You're really getting the best of the best. It's like an all-star baseball team."

The majority of students interviewed agreed with Chernin's description of professionalism within local companies. They cited several reasons for participation outside of school -- a lack of "the Ensemble element" (the emphasis on movement and inter-dependence of actors within Shaker theater), instruction for younger ages and a desire for variety.

Since age 5, Semel has achieved such variety by participating in all three area companies. As a 5-year-old, Semel began her stage experience by joining Playmakers Youth Theatre, a singing performance troupe at the Jewish Community Center. Later, after viewing a performance by an HYT cast, she joined HYT and, eventually, Playmakers. When she arrived at the high school, theater classes allowed Semel to develop her talents even further.

While Ensemble classes at Shaker focus on theater warm-ups, effective expression and responsive communication skills, senior Jennifer Chisholm felt that the classes weren't a representation of traditional theater.

"With Shaker theater, there's always the Ensemble element. There's not going to be any warm-ups and sky stretches at [outside] auditions or rehearsals," Chisholm said, adding that she had just wanted to see what else was out there when she auditioned for a role in Stagecrafters.

Erik Johnson, director of the Ensemble program, said that Ensemble is intended to encase a broad spectrum of talent, but he understands students' decisions to participate in outside productions. Johnson said that additional experiences will serve to enrich the students and can be incorporated into their work. "Students have so many committments, and it's tough to make choices about where they want to invest their energies," he said.

Due to the pool of cast members residing all over Northeast Ohio, audiences at area performances are significant and diverse. Being in an external production, however, also has its drawbacks. For one, there is the time commitment of two to four hours a night for rehearsal, depending on the number of scenes in which a character appears.

During the last week of rehearsal, dubbed "Tech Week" for the fusing of light and sound technologies with the performance elements, the cast runs through the entire production.

This can take up to six hours, as the company has to make sure that the lighting and sound equipment are timed with the performance. But, after all this practice, students still have to make time to finish homework and attend other rehearsals for additional plays.

Mandy Goldman, a senior and longtime member of Stagecrafters, said she's had numerous conflicts in her performance schedule. Having planned to attend both her Stagecrafters' Tech Week rehearsal as well as practice for the Junior Ensemble show her freshman year, Goldman faced a tough decision.

"I had to make the choice of which director to let know I was missing their rehearsal. I wasn't sure what to do, but I had to stay [at Tech Week] because if I didn't I could've been kicked out of Stagecrafters," Goldman said.

Christine McBurney, chairwoman of theatre arts department, said that she encourages her students to share their talents with the community. The more performing they do, she said, the more experience they have to take with them for future productions.

McBurney's advice is appropriate, given that all the world's a stage.

Selling out for just 50 cents

Nowadays the once obscure occupation of public relations agent has become more essential to musical success than the creativity of the artist. Press releases are now crafted with more care than lyrics. The end result is a skewed hierarchy of priorities, what I like to call a "pseudo-artist," or 50 Cent.

COLIN JACKSON

50 Cent has officially sold his soul to the media devil. Anyone who has paid attention to music news over the past few months has heard about the competition pitting the record sales of 50 Cent against those of Kanye West.

Naïve me, I thought music, or any form of art, was rooted in creativity, innovation and skill. Lately, however, it seems most pseudo-artists are motivated by their love of money, which is not an honorable reason for being a performer.

Some entertainers have resorted to the use of scandal and conflict, in place of legitimate skill, to sell records. Most notably, Interscope artist 50 Cent has made a career out of attempting to start feuds, known as "beef," with artists more prominent than he.

His most recent target is the internationally favored Kanye West, whose feel-good lyrics and clean-cut style have made him a fan favorite. In truth, West is a record label's dream, whereas 50 Cent, with a bad-boy persona and lyrics boasting the essence of a street life marked by gunplay and drug trafficking, is far from a suburban housewife's favorite hip-hop artist.

Rather than modifying his own image, however, 50 Cent prefers to slander others' (West is not his first target). 50 Cent caused mass controversy among hip-hop fans (arguments escalated, salads were thrown) by promising to end his solo career if his Sept. 11 release, "Curtis," did not out-sell West's upcoming album, "Graduation."

Several weeks later, 50 Cent retracted his threat, but not before puzzlingly announcing he would perform with his so-called nemesis on the hit Black Entertainment Television video countdown, "106 and Park."

All in all, 50 Cent's attempt to make me buy his album only pushed me to reject it. I am one to honor an artist's talent wherever it may lie. In 50's case, I feel that, if he must resort to lying to his fans to sell his album, it must not be worth the $9.95.

If 50 Cent could spend as much time making a good album as he did developing this marketing scheme, then maybe he wouldn't have to prey on the American public's thirst for conflict. And maybe he wouldn't have trailed West in sales by 310,000 albums after one week on the market.

I am not against innovative marketing schemes, but when you turn to cheap publicity stunts that involve deception, I must draw the line.

If you want to bite the head off a live bat, go ahead. If you want to document your courtship with your backup-dancer-husband, be my guest. Even if you want to wear a cone shaped brassiere and create the illusion of masturbation on stage, go for it. It's a free country.

But when you lie to your fans, you lose all credibility and your heart as an artist.

ESTABLISHING NEW PACE

BY JOSH CURRY
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

"This is possibly the best women's cross country team we've had in the history of Shaker Heights," said senior captain Natalia Cabrera.

Rownd

The Shaker women's cross-country squad has placed within the top three in every meet they have attended so far this season. Finishing first at Marlington and Forest Hills and second and third at University School and Brecksville respectively, the team has consistently placed at the top of the pack.

The success can be owed to individual skill. Sophomore runner Katie Rownd has led the team in each meet she has participated in. Along with finishing in first place at University School and Marlington, she also set a new the SHHS women's 5-kilometer cross country record with a time of 19:33 at the St. Joseph's Invitational. "It was really exciting when I found out that I had broken the record," Rownd said.

"We're starting out well so far, and as long as nobody gets injured we should stay strong," junior runner Lindsay McCord said. Last year, the Raiders were plagued by injuries. Seven varsity runners were injured at the same time, including Cabrera, who was out for a month due to a stress fracture.

"The injuries were probably due to the more demanding workouts introduced last year. This year we're used to the mileage, so we've stayed healthy except for a few bumps and bruises," Cabrera said.

Running up to six miles a day in training alone, it is not hard to imagine how these athletes can become injured.

"Coach Englander pushes us hard no matter what," McCord said. Altogether, the team runs an average of four to six miles a day, leaving them well prepared for the 3.1-mile races. "Our workouts are not only physically, but mentally strenuous," Cabrera said.

The strong start has the squad thinking big. "We discussed trying to win districts and possibly placing within the top 10 teams at the regional tournament. Both would be the first time for women's cross country," she said. "We just need to stay motivated."

Finding motivation for running several consecutive miles is not as difficult to come by as one might think. "Working together and passing an opponent with a teammate at your side feels like you're accomplishing something great," Cabrera said. She also added that practices can be great times for conversation and that "the runner's high doesn't hurt either."

"A lot of times we look at each other and ask why we do this, given the aches and pains, but at the end of a race we realize that all of the hard work and time was worth it," Cabrera said.

Meet of the Month Women's cross country district meet at Edgewater Park

START TIME 2:45 p.m. Oct. 20

KEY SHAKER RUNNERS
Katie Rownd, sophomore; Natalia Cabrera, senior

KEY DISTRICT RUNNERS
Madeline Chambers, Magnificat sophomore; Abigail Magner, North Royalton junior; Kelly Gallagher, St. Joseph junior

NOTABLE
Magnificat finished fifth at the state meet last season, St. Joseph finished 12th . . . Rownd finished fourth last year at the district meet after missing much of the season with an injury . . . Chambers set the Magnificat record this season for a 5-kilometer race.

Field hockey tops HB, Rownd breaks record

BEST OF THE MONTH

To keep you up to date on everything in Shaker sports, we have added a new feature to "Out of Bounds." Each issue, we will name a player of the month and a game of the month, highlighting a major victory or exciting game involving Shaker.

Women's cross-country runner **Katie Rownd** has won three of four meets, bowing out of the Brecksville Invitational due to a stress fracture in her foot. In the St. Joseph's Invitational, Rownd set a Shaker record for a 5-kilometer race with a time of 19:33.

The field hockey team topped rival Hathaway Brown for the first time since 2003, 4-2 Sept. 20. The Raiders remained undefeated and avenged last year's playoff loss to Blazers.

IS IT TRIBE TIME NOW?

"Somewhere between snow, the craziness and the injuries, this team became a family," Indians starting pitcher **Paul Byrd** said. For the 2007 AL Central Division champions, the regular season was one quirky episode after another -- from the first home series being snowed out to the second "home" series played in Milwaukee to the first triple play turned by the Indians since 1992. This Indians team brought back memories from 1995 after leading the majors in wins in their last at-bat, a few of which have been walk-off blasts.

The biggest reason for the Indians resurgence has been the steady bullpen. **Joe Borowski**, though nerve-wracking, has set a career high for saves, and Rafael Betancourt and **Rafael Perez** have established themselves as the best set-up combination in the majors. They follow a starting staff that has the second best ERA in the majors since the all-star break.

Many questioned the contract extension given to **Eric Wedge** before the all-star break, but he may be the manager of the year. From Aug. 15 until they clinched Sept. 23, the Indians were 27-9 and gained nine games on the Tigers. The arrival of second baseman **Asdrubal Cabrera** from AA Akron jumpstarted the Tribe offense, and a bevy of clutch hits led them to their first division title since 2001.

Now, the Indians have set themselves up nicely for the playoffs. Led by staff aces **C.C. Sabathia** and **Fausto Carmona**, the Tribe matches up well with any pitching staff in the league. However, they will have to deal with the fierce Yankee lineup, the starting pitching depth of the Angels and the veteran Red Sox.

TEDDY CAHILL

MIKE YOUNG

LACROSSE HIRINGS

Both the men's and women's varsity lacrosse teams will have new head coaches for the upcoming season. On the women's side, former Gilmour Academy lacrosse head coach and current Shaker varsity field hockey assistant **Alison Bradford** will take over for **Chantal Ayers**.

The men's team has its fourth head coach in four years with the hiring of former middle school lacrosse coach **Augustus Stager**. "He really wants to work with the players," senior Cam Wilk said. "He's really open to our opinions."

BACK ON LEE

The rumors that the Shaker/Cleveland Heights football game would be played at John Carroll University are now squashed. The annual rivalry game will be played at Heights Oct. 20 at 2 p.m. Strangely enough, this is the second straight year Shaker will head to Heights, as they would typically play at Shaker this year. "That's just the way the schedule worked out," Athletic Director **Don Readance** said. "It may have something to do with Lakewood leaving . . . we have one less team to work with."

MENTOR CONTINUES TO DOMINATE

Much to the dismay of Shaker football fans, though it shouldn't be surprising, Mentor has established themselves as the dominant football force in Northeast Ohio. After beating Strongsville 44-28, Solon 27-0 and St. Ignatius 38-17, Mentor is not only the best in the area, but probably the second best team in the state behind Cincinnati St. Xavier. Mentor lost in the state final last year by one point in overtime to Hilliard Davidson and returns its star quarterback, **Bart Tanski**. Kicker **Kevin Harper** broke the state record for the longest field goal with a 62 yarder against Solon. He also owns the third longest kick, a 58 yarder in their lone loss of the year at Youngstown Mooney.

Based on all of that, we're assuming that it will be a mismatch (to say the least) when Mentor comes to play Shaker on homecoming Oct. 6. It's quite a difference from the automatic win (see: Lakewood) typically scheduled.

Vick's conduct remains indefensible

Because so many professional athletes are weighing in on Mike Vick's downfall, I think I would do the American people a disservice if I didn't express my opinion on one of the biggest sports scandals to explode lately.

Better yet, Americans would be better off left un-served by athletes, given the abundance of their uninformed opinions about the Atlanta Falcons star's fall from grace.

MIKE YOUNG

Where to start? How about the cocky, former Falcons cornerback Deion Sanders, who came up with an illogical defense of Vick's gambling on dogfighting, killing dogs and conspiring to travel in interstate commerce for the purposes of dogfighting.

"I believe Vick had a passion for dogfighting," Sanders wrote in his Fort Myers News-Press column before Vick even plead guilty. Vick "had a passion for dogfighting." A passion? Do you think Adam "Pacman" Jones has a "passion" for strip clubs?

Maybe it's just me, but when I think of having a "passion" for something, I think of stamp collecting -- not electrocuting dogs because they didn't adequately maul other dogs. It's OK, though, because Sanders just wants "to take you inside his [Vick's] mind so you can understand where he might be coming from."

Plenty of other prominent people are quick to defend Vick on cultural grounds. These people claim that Vick, a Southerner, grew up in a culture that is desensitized to dogfighting.

On ABC's "The View," Whoopi Goldberg said, "There are certain things that are indicative to certain parts of the country." Apparently dogfighting is just as ingratiated and acceptable in southern culture as college football, NASCAR and barbecue.

Growing up around dogfighting does not give Vick an excuse for his actions. He is now a 27-year-old adult and should have some sense of what is right or wrong in this world. I believe the phrase is "common sense."

Too bad New York Knicks guard Stephon Marbury doesn't have common sense. He called dogfighting "a sport" and said "we don't hear anything about people who shoot 'deers' or shoot other animals." Logic would tell you that the actions of Vick and his cohorts are completely incomparable to deer hunting.

Boxer Roy Jones Jr., notably involved in cockfighting in the past, told Newsday that the media is "making this so bad, but really two dogs fighting can happen in anyone's backyard or on the street."

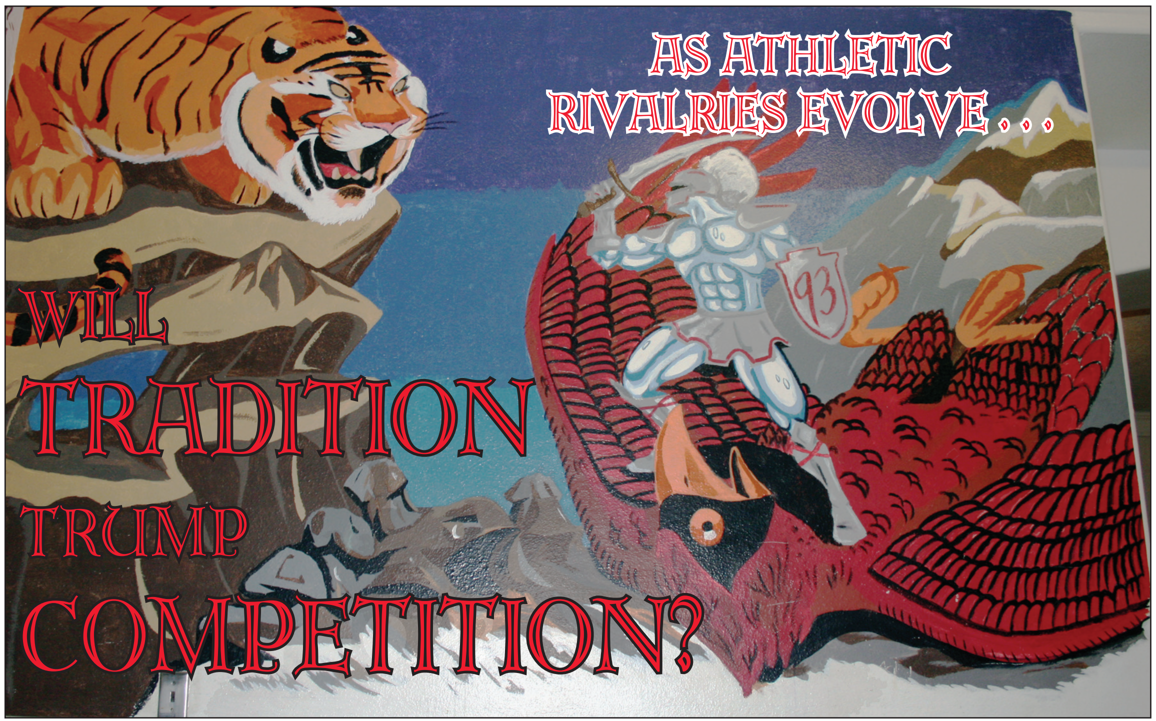
By that standard, I could walk outside, see two dogs fighting, train others to do the same and then suddenly pull thousands of dollars out of my pocket to fund an entire operation based on dogfighting. Just like Vick, right?

In the Green Valley News, Jones went on to say, "Fighting animals don't necessarily get mistreated. They get treated just the way I get treated [in the boxing ring]." Last time I checked, you don't fight to the death in boxing rings, and you aren't executed for leaving your opponent standing.

I don't understand why people are still defending Vick, a man who risked his $130 million livelihood to gamble on fighting dogs. He didn't make a "mistake." He made a colossal error in judgment, blinded by his own twisted "passion" for watching two dogs maul each other. He is solely responsible for his actions.

THE SHAKER RAIDER COMES TO LIFE

While the new red foam Shaker Raider mascot may not join the likes of the Philly Phanatic, The Chicken or the Phoenix Suns Gorilla, Raider fans now have something to "enhance the atmosphere and school spirit," Athletic Director Don Readance said. According to Readance, the mascot is scheduled to appear at all home football games and at least one home event for each fall sport. Each team will choose a game for the mascot's appearance. The mascot cost $3,000, half of which was paid for by the Sports Boosters and the rest by other organizations in the school, including Student Council.



AS ATHLETIC RIVALRIES EVOLVE . . . WILL TRADITION TRUMP COMPETITION?

Su Dong • The Shakerite

LADELL JOHNSON ('93) PAINTED a mural depicting a fight among a Shaker Raider, Mentor Cardinal and a Cleveland Heights Tiger.

BY TEDDY CAHILL
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

If Ladell Johnson were to repaint the mural "The Final Confrontation" today, which school's mascot would be the last one standing to fight the Shaker Raider for ultimate bragging rights?

The mural, which adorns a wall outside the small auditorium, shows a Cleveland Heights Tiger as the ultimate opponent, with the Raider standing over a dead Mentor Cardinal. When Johnson painted the mural 14 years ago, Cleveland Heights was unquestionably Shaker's biggest rival, but since that time Mentor, University School and Hathaway Brown have all established themselves as rivalry games on many sports' schedules.

"You always want to beat [Cleveland] Heights, but it seems like the [football] team is just as pumped up to play Mentor," senior left tackle Chris Browne said. "With Mentor it's all about respect. They don't respect us when we go to their house."

Shaker's rivalry with Mentor dates back to the Cardinals' appearance in the Lake Erie League in 1992. Since that time, in almo-st every LEL sport, the team to beat to win the league has been Mentor, as the Cardinals have racked up an astonishing 111 league titles. By contrast, Shaker has won 178 since joining the league in 1936.

"Teams naturally gravitate to their toughest opponents," Athletic Director Don Readance said. "If every year the same teams are one and two in the league, then a rivalry usually develops."

When it came time for the senior football players to write up their goals for the season, beating Mentor ranked fifth on the list, behind winning the LEL and going undefeated at home. Beating Heights wasn't even mentioned. From women's tennis to baseball, the Cardinals routinely field the top teams in the area, and this competition has fueled Shaker's desire to beat them.

Shaker's archrival has long been its neighbor, Cleveland Heights. With the two schools located only 2.6 miles apart down Lee Road, the schools used to compete in more than just sports. "It was huge it was a friendly rivalry because we socialized in and out of school," said Rob Forward ('64), who played football and baseball at Shaker. "Our clubs did a lot of activities together, so there were bragging rights at stake."

Cleveland Heights' stature has declined following white flight that has precipitated the closing of schools and affected their test scores and athletic performance. The changes have impacted the rivalry. Over the past five years, Shaker has a .797 winning percentage against their historical archrivals in all sports.

While Mentor and Cleveland Heights are Shaker's rivals in the LEL, for the few varsity sports that aren't members of the LEL neither school means as much.

Both the field hockey and women's lacrosse teams seem to have taken on HB as their rivals due to proximity, similar team demographics and competitiveness. "HB's always been a great team, said Maddie Williams, a junior field hockey player. "Beating them this year was a huge thing for us mentally." In this year's match up Shaker beat the Blazers 4-2 Sept. 20.

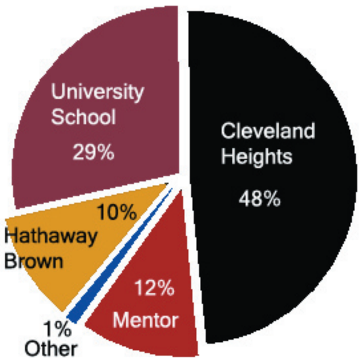
But for hockey and men's lacrosse, the biggest game of the year comes against US, and many students are willing to pay for it. Over the past few years scalping tickets for the US game has become routine, with students willing to pay more than $20. For many Shaker students the Shaker vs. US hockey game is the biggest game of the year and certainly ranks high on the list of events on the entire school calendar.

With many US students living in Shaker and the two middle schools situated across the street from each other, this is a rivalry engrained in students' minds at a young age. "I have a lot of friends that go to US, and I've played on teams with those kids," senior hockey captain Sam Weir said. "With the whole school into the game, you want to win for the bragging rights."

With a game against US being added as a fixture to the football and basketball schedules, this is a rivalry that is sure to grow even fiercer -- if possible -- in the future. The rivalry was renewed in football for the first time since 1945 when the Preppers won a 62-42 shootout in Hunting Valley Sept. 20.

"A team can certainly salvage their season by beating their neighborhood rival," Readance said.

WHO IS SHAKER'S BIGGEST RIVAL?



Scientific telephone poll of 102 Shaker students, margin of error +/- 9.9 percent

How Shaker stacks up against its archrivals

Shaker Heights Raiders

SIZE 1,876 students
LEL TITLES 178
RED NORTH TITLES 10

Distances from Shaker Heights High School were computed using Mapquest. Records versus Shaker reflect the past five years' results.

Hathaway Brown and University School do not play in the Lake Erie League. Shaker and US competed in the Red North until this season.

Cleveland Heights did not return phone calls requesting information.

Cleveland Heights Tigers

SIZE 1,900 students
DISTANCE 2.6 miles
RECORD VS. SHAKER 14-55-3
LEL TITLES N/A
NEXT GAME VS. SHAKER Field hockey, Oct. 10
LAST SHAKER VICTORY Men's soccer, Sept. 17, 1-0

Hathaway Brown Blazers

SIZE 339 girls
DISTANCE 2.41 miles
RECORD VS. SHAKER 13-3
NEXT GAME VS. SHAKER Women's basketball, Nov. 24
LAST SHAKER VICTORY Field hockey, Sept. 20, 4-2

Mentor Cardinals

SIZE 2,390 students
DISTANCE 22.48 miles
RECORD VS. SHAKER 37-20-1
LEL TITLES 111
NEXT GAME VS. SHAKER Football, Oct. 6
LAST SHAKER VICTORY Women's tennis, Sept. 15, 5-0

University School Preppers

SIZE 307 boys
DISTANCE 8.09 miles
RECORD VS. SHAKER 12-7
RED NORTH TITLES 12
NEXT GAME VS. SHAKER Hockey, Dec. 7
LAST SHAKER VICTORY Wrestling, Jan. 29, 36-35

Graphic by Teddy Cahill and Mike Young